

REMARKS

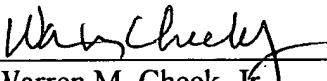
The specification has been revised to reflect the national stage status. In addition, claim 19 has been cancelled as being directed to an improper "use" claim which is protected under U.S. practice by claim 18.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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PROCESS FOR PRODUCING PROTEIN POWDER

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP00/06303 Filed September 14, 2000.

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a process for producing a protein powder and a sustained-release preparation comprising the protein powder. Further, it relates to a sustained-release preparation comprising a specific base material, and the like.

Background Art

10 Recently, a large amount of proteins have been produced by utilizing Escherichia coli, yeasts, animal cells, or living bodies such as goat, hamsters, etc. due to developed genetic engineering and cell technology, and put to medicinal use. However, since these proteins have very high reactivity to
15 acidic conditions and peptic enzymes, they are not absorbed by oral administration. Then, in general, they are administered subcutaneously or intramuscularly. However, they must be frequently administered because of the generally short biological half-life. The repeated injections takes a
20 significant physical burden on patients.

For example, a growth hormone (hereafter sometimes referred to as GH), a representative hormone which is originally produced and secreted in the anterior portion of the pituitary gland, is a protein having widely diverse physiological